THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. An international legally binding instrument, namely the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), has been adopted recently to initiate international action to protect human health and environment through measures and to eliminate emissions and discharge of twelve POPs. As per available inforamtion, 93 States and Regional Economic Integration Organization have signed the Convention.

(b) to (d) India adopted the Convention and signed the Final Act on May 23, 2001. The following steps have been taken by the Government.

Out of 12 POPs chemicals, 6 chemicals (aldrin, chlordane, endrin, heptachlor, toxaprene, hexachlorobenzene) have been banned whereas 2 chemicals (DDT and dieldrin) are under restricted use. The pesticide Mirex is not registered in India. Polychlorinated biphenyls are not produced in our country. Dioxins and Furans are unintended by-products.

Export of Drugs

2157. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total value of export of drugs from the country during the last two years;

(b) what are the main items of exports from the country; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve export of drugs from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The value of exports of drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals during the last two years has been as under:

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1999-2000	7230.16
2000-2001	8729.89*

* (Provisional)

SOURCE : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS)

(b) Bulk drugs exported include Sulphamethoxazole, Ampicillin and Salts, Amoxycillin and Salts, Cephalexin and Salts, Ciprofloxacin and Salts, Chloramphenicol and Salts, Ibuprofen, Rifampicin, Salbutamil, Ranitidine, etc. Major finished formulations exported are based on Antibiotics/Antibacterials, Analgescis/ Antipyretics and Neuromuscular, Gastrointestinal drugs including Antiulcerants, Antispasmodics, Antacids and Antidiarrhoeals, Anthelmintics, Anti T.B., Antimalarial, Antileprosy, Antifungal, Antiprotozoal, Antiviral preparations, Cardiovascular/Hypotensive drugs including Diuretics, Anticancer formulations, I.V. Fluids and Plasma compounds, etc.

(c) To encourage export of drugs sspecial incentives are given under EPCG, 100% Export Oriented Units and units set up in the export processing zones. In addition, appropriate changes are effected in the Exim Policy from time to time. CHEMEXCIL (Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council) makes concerted efforts to promote, *inter-alia,* exports of basic organic and inorganic chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

District forest officers' powers to arrest

2158. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether surveillance team and district forest officers are empowered under the law to arrest and prosecute traders in animals of protected species; and

(b) if so, who such species are brought and sold freely in village markets without the knowledge of empowered officers?